

XI.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

1. *Anderson's 'Zoology of Yunnan.'*

[Anatomical and Zoological Researches: comprising an account of the zoological results of the two expeditions to Western Yunnan in 1868 and 1875; and a Monograph of the two Cetacean Genera *Platanista* and *Orcella*. By John Anderson, M.D. Edin. 2 vols. 4to: London, 1878.]

In these volumes we have an account of the zoological collections made during the two expeditions sent by the Indian Government into Western Yunnan in 1867 and 1875, with the view of opening up trade between British Burmah and the interior of China. Dr. Anderson accompanied both of them as Naturalist, and with the assistance of several fellow-workers has prepared the present work. The portion relating to the Birds, in which Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe has "carefully worked out the literature," contains a "list of the species collected on the two expeditions." They are 233 in number. The only new species described appears to be *Arachnechthra edeni* (p. 661), the other novelties discovered having been previously characterized in the Zoological Society's 'Proceedings.' Of the letterpress we must say that a most inordinate proportion is taken up by synonyms, whole pages being devoted to the most ordinary references to such common species as *Charadrius fulvus* and *Scolopax gallinago*.

The species figured are:—

<i>Circus melanoleucus</i> , ♂.	<i>Hypsipetes yunnanensis</i> .
" " ♀ & young.	<i>Culcipeta tephrocephala</i> .
<i>Pteruthius æralatus</i> .	<i>Suya superciliaris</i> .
<i>Chleuasicus ruficeps</i> .	<i>Pycnonotus xanthorrhous</i> .
<i>Chatarrhoea gularis</i> .	<i>Phasianus sladeni</i> .
<i>Alcippe phayrei</i> .	<i>Euplocamus andersoni</i> .
<i>Arachnechthra edeni</i> .	<i>Bambusicola fytchii</i> .
<i>Suthora brunnea</i> .	

2. *Brewer on the North-American Empidonaces.*

[Notes on the Nests and Eggs of the eight North-American Species of *Empidonaces*. By T. M. Brewer. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1879.]

Dr. Brewer bases these valuable notes mainly upon specimens in the Smithsonian and his own collections. Three

species of the genus *Empidonax* lay white eggs (*E. minimus*, *E. obscurus*, and *E. hammondi*); the others have strongly marked eggs, except *E. flaviventris*, in which case it seems that eggs of both forms occur.

3. Dubois on Additions to the Avifauna of Belgium.

[Remarques sur la Faune de Belgique, par M. Alph. Dubois. Bull. Acad. R. Belgique, 2^{me} sér., xlii. no. 6 (1879).]

Records the occurrence of *Turdus sibiricus*, *Petrocincla cyanus*, and *Emberiza pusilla* in Belgium.

4. Dubois on two new Birds.

[Descriptions d'Oiseaux Nouveaux, par M. Alph. Dubois. Bull. Acad. R. Belgique, 2^{me} sér., xlvii. no. 6 (1879).]

The species described are *Hypoxanthus æquatorialis*, which is the Ecuadorian form of *H. rivolii* (distinguishable by its black rump and smaller bill), and *Euplocamus sumatranus* said to be from Sumatra. But the Sumatran *Euplocami* which we have examined are certainly referable to *E. vieilloti*.

5. Elliot's Monograph of the Hornbills.

[A Monograph of the Bucerotidæ, or family of the Hornbills. By D. G. Elliot, F.R.S.E. &c. Part VI. Small folio: 1878. Published by the author.]

Mr. Elliot has issued the sixth number of his 'Monograph of the Hornbills' since we last mentioned this work. We trust he will bring this useful but somewhat lingering piece of work to a speedy conclusion.

Part vi. contains illustrations of the following species:—

<i>Bucorvus pyrrhops.</i>	<i>Anthracoceros fraterculus.</i>
<i>Ceratogymna elata.</i>	<i>Rhytidoceros subruficollis.</i>
<i>Hydrocissa exarata.</i>	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus.</i>

6. Godman and Salvin's 'Biologia Centrali-Americana.'

[*Biologia Centrali-Americana*; or Contributions to the Knowledge of the Fauna and Flora of Mexico and Central America. Edited by F. Ducane Godman and Osbert Salvin. (Zoology.) Parts I. & II. 4to: London, 1879. Published for the Editors by R. H. Porter, 10 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.]

The first zoological part of this work was issued in September last, and the second in November. Of the "Aves" we have herein pp. 1-56, containing the Passeres as far as the Paridæ, according to the arrangement in the 'Nomenclator.' Every species is described in a Latin diagnosis. *Catharus alticola*, from the Volcan de Fuego, Guatemala, is described as new. The following species are figured :—

Catharus gracilirostris.	Turdus flavirostris.
„ griseiceps.	Melanoptila glabrirostris.
„ mexicanus.	Turdus nigrescens.
„ dryas.	

7. Gould on a new Bower-bird.

[Observations on the *Chlamydodera* or Bower-birds, with Description of a new Species. By John Gould, F.R.S. Ann. & Mag. N. H. ser. 5, vol. iv. p. 73.]

Chlamydodera orientalis, sp. nov., from Queensland, is the eastern form of *C. nuchalis*, from which it differs in the "barring of the upper plumage almost approaching to that of *C. maculata* and *C. guttata*."

8. Gould's 'Birds of New Guinea.'

[The Birds of New Guinea and adjacent Papuan Islands, including any new species that may be discovered in Australia. By John Gould, F.R.S. &c. Part X. Folio: London, 1879. Published by the author, 26 Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, W.C.]

Mr. Gould's tenth part contains, as usual, many most interesting illustrations, amongst which we may call special attention to that of the rare Tooth-billed Bower-bird (*Scenopæus denti-rostris*), one of the most remarkable of the recent additions to the Australian avifauna.

The species figured in part x. are :—

Aprosmictus callopterus.	Myzomela rosenbergi.
Cyclopsitta cervicalis.	Arses telescopthalmus.
Paradisea papuana.	„ batantæ.
Scenopæus denti-rostris.	„ aruensis.
Chlamydodera occipitalis.	Heteromyias cinereifrons.
Pitta forsteni.	Pœcilodryas placens.

9. Gould's 'Birds of Asia.'

[The Birds of Asia. By J. Gould, F.R.S. &c. Dedicated to the Honourable East-India Company. Part XXXI. Folio: London, 1879. Published by the author, 26 Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, W.C.]

Of Mr. Gould's 'Birds of Asia' (commenced in 1850) we have now the thirty-first part before us, containing figures of the following species:—

Oriolus broderipi.	Calliope camtschatkensis.
Pitta ellioti.	„ pectoralis.
„ granatina.	„ tschebaiewi.
„ coccinea.	Urocynchramus pylzowi.
Tetrao mlokosiewiczii.	Carpodacus roseus.
Hæmatortyx sanguiniceps.	Prionochilus vincens.
Bambusicola hyperythra.	

Hæmatortyx and *Urocynchramus* are both novelties of great interest, of which we are glad to see good figures. We observe that Mr. Gould has omitted to quote Selater's description and figure of *Prionochilus vincens*, given in this Journal for 1874 (p. 1, pl. i.).

10. Hartlaub on a new Quail.

[Ueber eine neue Wachtel von der Duke-of-York Gruppe. Von Dr. G. Hartlaub. Sitzungsab. d. Verein für naturwissensch. Unterhaltung: Hamburg, 1879.]

Excalfactoria lepida (= *E. sinensis*, Sel. P. Z. S. 1879, p. 447) is based on four specimens obtained by Hr. Th. Kleinsmidt on Mioko, one of the Duke-of-York group, in May 1879. It is stated to differ from *E. sinensis* in its larger stature, different coloration beneath, and in other particulars.

11. Lawrence on West-Indian Birds.

[A General Catalogue of the Birds noted from the Islands of the Lesser Antilles visited by Mr. Fred. A. Ober; with a Table showing their Distribution, and those found in the United States. By George N. Lawrence. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. i. p. 486.]

This is a most convenient Index to Mr. Lawrence's excellent reports on the birds collected by Mr. Ober in the islands of Barbuda, Antigua, Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique, St. Vincent, and Grenada.

12. Legge's '*Birds of Ceylon*.'

[A History of the Birds of Ceylon. By Captain Vincent Legge, R.A. Part II. 4to: London, 1879. Published by the author.]

Capt. Vincent Legge's '*Birds of Ceylon*' makes good progress. In the bulky part issued in September last we have an account of the whole of the Passeres and Columbæ, together with illustrations of the following species:—

Spizaetus ceylonensis.	Hypothymis ceylonensis.
Brachypternis puncticollis.	Stoparola sordida.
„ ceylonus.	Oreocincla imbricata.
Centropus chlororhynchus.	Turdus spilopterus.
Cissa ornata.	Kelaartia penicillata.
Buchanga leucopygialis.	Malacocercus rufescens.
Dissemurus paradiseus.	Pomatorhinus melanurus.
„ lophorhinus.	Garrulax cinereifrons.
Alseonax muttui.	

13. Milne-Edwards and Grandidier's '*Madagascar*.'

[Histoire Physique, Naturelle et Politique de Madagascar. Publiée par Alfred Grandidier. Vol. XII.—Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux. Par MM. Alph. Milne-Edwards et Alf. Grandidier. Tome I., Text, i. 1^{re} partie. Vol. XIII.—Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux. Tome II., Atlas, i. 2^e partie. Vol. XIV.—Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux. Tome III. Atlas, ii. 1^{re} partie. 4to: Paris, 1878-79. Imprimerie Nationale.]

We have now before us the first portion of the letterpress relating to the Birds of this great undertaking, of which we chronicled the commencement in 1878 (*Ibis*, 1878, p. 189). It contains M. Grandidier's account of the Parrots, Birds of Prey (diurnal and nocturnal), and *Cuculidæ* of Madagascar, with very copious details on their anatomy by M. Alphonse Milne-Edwards. We have also two parts of the accompanying Atlas of plates, in which the coloured plates are drawn by Mr. Keulemans and well coloured. They represent the following species:—

Atlas, pt. 1. vol. i.

Astur henstii, juv.	Ispidina madagascariensis.
Heliodilus soumagnei.	Merops superciliosus.
Cypselus parvus.	Corythornis cristatus.
Chætura grandidieri.	Upupa marginata.

Collocalia francaica.	Brachypteracias leptosomus.
Caprimulgus madagascariensis.	„ squamigera.
„ enarratus.	„ crossleyi.
Leptosomus discolor ♂.	„ pittoides.
„ „ ♀ & juv.	

Atlas, pt. 2. vol. i.

Nectarinia souimanga.	Ellisia madagascariensis typica.
„ notata.	„ „ , var. filicum.
Neodrepanis coruscans.	„ „ , var. lantzii.
Philepitta castanea ♀.	Thamnornis chloropetoïdes.
„ schlegelii ♀.	Cisticola madagascariensis.
„ castanea ♂.	Dromæocercus brunneus.
„ schlegelii ♂.	Calamodyta newtonii.
Eroessa tenella.	Pratincola torquata.
Zosterops madagascariensis.	Motacilla flaviventris.
Hartlaubius madagascariensis.	Copsychus albospectularis typicus.
Falculia palliata.	„ „ , var. pica.
Hypherpes corallirostris.	Cossypha imerina.
Mystacornis crossleyi.	„ sharpei.
Bernieria madagascariensis.	Hypsipetes madagascariensis.
„ zosterops.	Tylas eduardi.
Oxylabes madagascariensis.	„ madagascariensis.
„ xanthophrys.	

It is quite evident that when this work is complete we shall have a better account of the avifauna of Madagascar than of that of many much longer-known parts of the world's surface. But the Madagascarian ornis is of so strange a character that it well merits all the attention that can be paid to it.

14. '*Philosophical Transactions*,' Vol. 168 (*Natural History of the Transit Expeditions*).

[An Account of the Petrological, Botanical, and Zoological Collections made in Kerguelen's Land and Rodriguez during the Transit-of-Venus Expeditions carried out by order of Her Majesty's Government in the years 1874-75. (Phil. Trans. 168, extra volume.) London, 1879.

Of Mr. Sharpe's ornithological contributions to the present volume, which were issued in advance of the complete work, we have already spoken (see *Ibis*, 1877, p. 479, and 1879, p. 216). But besides these, we find in the complete work, now issued as the 168th volume of the '*Transactions of the*

Royal Society,' two essays relating to our branch of zoology—a memoir by Dr. Günther and Mr. E. Newton on the extinct birds of Rodriguez, and one by Mr. E. Newton and Mr. J. W. Clark on the osteology of the Solitaire. As regards the first of these, the most interesting new point is, perhaps, the discovery by Mr. Slater's labours of an extinct Starling in Rodriguez (*Necropsar rodericanus*), allied to the *Fregilupus* of Réunion. The memoir on the Solitaire is also worthy of careful study. After a thorough examination of the very extensive materials submitted to them, the authors have come to the conclusion that "there does not seem to be a single bone in the skeleton of *Pezophaps solitaria* which is not liable to greater or less individual variation of some kind or other," not only as regards absolute size, but also as regards the relative proportions of the different parts.

15. Radakoff on the Birds of the Lower Danube and Pruth.

[Ornithologische Bemerkungen über Bessarabien, Moldau, Walachei, Bulgarien und Ost-Rumelien. Von W. N. Radakoff. Bull. Soc. Imp. d. Nat. d. Moscou, 1879, no. 1, p. 150.]

A series of short notes on 203 birds observed during the author's company with the Russian armies in the campaign of 1876. "*Aquila clanga*" is stated to be "überall sesshaft."

16. Ramsay on the Zoology of the Solomon Islands.

[Notes on the Zoology of the Solomon Islands. By E. P. Ramsay, F.L.S. &c. Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. iv. p. 65.]

In this paper (an abstract of which was published in 'Nature' of June last) Mr. Ramsay gives an account of a collection, containing 50 examples of Mammals and 350 of Birds, made by Mr. J. Cockerell at three "stations" on the Solomon Islands, in company with Capt. Brodie of the schooner 'Ariel.' The localities mentioned are Guadalcanar Island, Cape Pitt, and Savo. Cape Pitt, we find, is on the Island of Georgia; but it would have been better if Mr. Ramsay had been a little more definite about his localities. The new species described are:—

Graucalus pusillus.	Monarcha brodiei.
Myiagra ferrocyanea.	Sauloprocta cockerelli.
„ pallida.	Rhipidura rubrofrontata.
Monarcha rufocastanea.	Cinnyris (?) dubia.

All these are from Gualdacanar, except the last, which is from Savo. Besides these, the collection contains examples of *Lorius cardinalis*, *Carpophaga rufigula*, and of the Megapode of Savo, called *Megapodius brenchleyi* by G. R. Gray, from the egg. Taking this paper in connexion with that of Mr. Tristram in our last number, it seems certain that the Solomon Islands possess a very rich avifauna, and that each island is well worthy of special investigation.

In reference to this paper, see also Count Salvadori's article *suprà*, p. 126.

17. Ramsay on the Zoology of New Guinea.

[Contributions to the Zoology of New Guinea. Parts IV. & V.—Remarks on recent Collections made by Mr. Andrew Goldie in the South-east portion of New Guinea and the Louisiades. By Ed. P. Ramsay, F.L.S. &c. Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. iv. p. 85.]

Contains an account of a third collection, made at Port Moresby and in its vicinity, by Mr. Goldie. The species not previously recorded are numbered continuously from Mr. Ramsay's last paper on the same subject (Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. ii. p. 14), whereby it appears that the total number of species as yet obtained from this locality is 220. Mr. Ramsay adds some general remarks on the avifauna, and a table showing the distribution of the species.

18. Reinhardt on the ornamental Wing-feathers of the King Eider and Mandarin Duck.

[Vingeprydelserne hos Konge-Ederfuglen og Mandarin-Anden. Af J. Reinhardt. Vid. Meddel. fra d. naturh. Foren. i. Kbhvn. 1879-80.]

Prof. Reinhardt corrects J. C. H. Fischer's recently published account of the two peculiar feathers of the scapulars of the King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*), and points out that they have been previously described by Nilsson, Sundvall, and others. These feathers occur in other *Somateriae*, but not in *Heniconetta stelleri*. The apparently corresponding feathers in the Mandarin Duck are differently constituted.

19. *Salvadori on the Birds of the Kei Islands.*

[Catalogo degli Uccelli delle Isole Kei. Per Tommaso Salvadori. Ann. Mus. Genov. xiv. p. 628.]

In this memoir our indefatigable fellow-worker gives us a complete catalogue of the birds hitherto ascertained to occur in the Kei Islands (Ké Islands of Wallace), south of New Guinea, and prefaces it with some interesting conclusions as to the alliances of their avifauna, which, as shown by the existence of *Nasiterna* and *Polophilus*, is rather Papuan than Moluccan, as supposed by Wallace. The total number of birds now known from the Kei Islands is 82, of which 12 are peculiar to the group.

20. *Schlegel on Nisus rufitorques and N. poliocephalus.*

[On *Nisus rufitorques* and *N. poliocephalus*. By H. Schlegel. Notes Leyden Mus. no. i. p. 1 (1878).]

A series of remarks on these two species and their distribution, and on what Prof. Schlegel regards as their local varieties.

21. *Schlegel on Strix inexpectata.*

[On *Strix inexpectata*. By H. Schlegel. Notes Leyd. Mus. no. xviii. p. 50 (1878).]

Describes this species from Northern Celebes. It is a large typical *Strix*, allied to *S. rosenbergi*.

22. *Schlegel on a new Cuckoo.*

[On a new Species of Cuckoo from Madagascar. By H. Schlegel. Notes Leyd. Mus. no. xxiv. p. 99 (1879).]

The new species is *C. audeberti*, allied to *C. sparverioides* of India, based on a single female specimen obtained by M. Audebert in June 1878, near Mananare, on the southwestern shore of the bay of Antongil.

23. *Schlegel on Strix tenebricosa arfaki.*

[On *Strix tenebricosa arfaki*. By H. Schlegel. Notes Leyd. Mus. no. xxv. p. 101 (1879).]

Under this name Prof. Schlegel describes the "representant

of *Strix tenebricosa*” in New Guinea. The type is from Hattam.

24. *Schlegel on a new Treron.*

[On a new Species of *Treron* from the island of Sumba (Sandelwood). By H. Schlegel. Notes Leyd. Mus. no. xxvi. p. 103 (1879).]

The species is called after its discoverer, Mr. Teysmann, *T. teysmanni*. It is most nearly allied to *T. psittacea* and *T. floris*.

25. *Schlegel on Artamia bernieri.*

[On *Artamia bernieri*. By H. Schlegel. Notes Leyd. Mus. no. xxviii. p. 111 (1879).]

Describes the adult male of this species (of a uniform glossy black), from examples procured by Mr. Audebert in N.E. Madagascar.

26. *Schlegel on a new Heron.*

[On an undescribed Species of *Ardea*. By H. Schlegel. Notes Leyd. Mus. no. xxix. p. 113 (1879).]

Ardea lansbergii is a new “Semi-egret” from Macassar, Southern Celebes, and is allied to *A. gularis* and *A. jugularis*.

27. *Schlegel on Hypherpes corallirostris.*

[On *Hypherpes corallirostris*, Newton. By H. Schlegel. Notes Leyd. Mus. no. xxx. p. 115.]

Points out the differences in the sexes of this form, and describes the male.

28. *Schlegel on Talegallus pyrrhopygius.*

[On *Talegallus pyrrhopygius*. By H. Schlegel. Notes Leyd. Mus. no. xxxix. p. 159 (1879).]

Established on a skin recently obtained at one of the mission-stations on the eastern coast of the N.W. peninsula of New Guinea. The species is distinguished from *T. cuvieri* by its chestnut upper tail-coverts, and other differences.

29. *Schlegel on Gallinula frankii.*

[On *Gallinula frankii*. By H. Schlegel. Notes Leyd. Mus. no. xl. p. 163 (1879).]

Gallinula frankii is a name given to the southern form of *Amaurornis olivacea* of the Philippines. But this form has already been named *Porzana moluccana* by Wallace, and should stand as *Amaurornis moluccana* (cf. Salvadori, Atti Acad. Sc. Tor. xiv., and Sclater, P. Z. S. 1879, p. 451).

30. *Sclater's 'Jacamars and Puff-Birds.'*

[A Monograph of the Jacamars and Puff-Birds, or Families *Galbulidæ* and *Bucconidæ*. By P. L. Sclater, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., &c. Part I. 4to: London, 1879. Published for the author by R. H. Porter, 6 Tenderden Street, W.]

The first part of this Monograph was issued in October last. It contains illustrations of the following species, and the accompanying letterpress:—

Urogalba paradisea.	Galbula melanogenia.
„ amazonum.	„ tombacea.
Galbula viridis.	„ albirostris.
„ rufo-viridis.	„ cyaneicollis.
„ ruficauda.	

31. *Shelley's Monograph of the Sun-birds.*

[A Monograph of the *Cinnyridæ*, or Family of Sun-Birds. By Captain G. E. Shelley, F.Z.S., F.R.G.S., &c. Parts II.-X. 4to: London. Published by the Author, at the Office of the British Ornithologists' Union, 6 Tenderden Street, Hanover Square, W.]

We owe apologies to Capt. Shelley for not having recently chronicled the progress of his excellent Monograph of the Sun-birds, the parts of which have been issued during the past two years with praiseworthy regularity.

We have now before us ten parts of Capt. Shelley's work. As twelve parts were the limit originally assigned, although we are now told that one or two additional parts will be required for recent additions to the group, we trust that it may shortly be brought to a conclusion, when it will form a worthy companion to the well-known monographs of Sharpe and the Marshalls.

32. *Taczanowski on the Red-tailed Shrikes of Central Asia.*

[Quelques mots sur les Pie-grièches à queue rousse de l'Asie Centrale. Par M. L. Taczanowski. Bull. Soc. Zool. France, 1878, p. 36.]

After criticising M. Vian's paper on this subject (Bull. Soc. Zool. 1877, p. 208), M. Taczanowski propounds his own views on the vexed question of the *Lanius phœnicurus* of Pallas, and describes at full length the four forms found in Northern Asia, which are, according to his opinion, (1) *Otomela cristata* (Linn.), of E. Siberia, (2) *O. phaniciuroides* (Severtz.), of Turkestan, (3) *O. speculigera*, Tacz., of Southern Daouria, and (4) *O. isabellina* (Ehr.), of Turkestan.

XII.—*Letters, Announcements, &c.*

We have received the following letters addressed to the Editors of 'The Ibis':—

74 Jermyn St., London, S.W.
November 20, 1879.

SIRS,—I visited the Zoological Garden at Antwerp towards the beginning of last September, and carefully examined the Eagle on which, without having seen it, Dr. Bree founded his supposed new species, *Aquila cullenii*. I found the bird alone in a large cage, and labelled "*Aquila cullenii*, Bree." It was very tame, in beautiful plumage, and very clean and healthy-looking. It does not now much resemble the figure in Dr. Bree's 'Birds of Europe,' second edition, vol. i. p. 89, as it is much darker and more fulvous in colour than there represented, and the tarsus is, of course, feathered down to the toes, as in all true Eagles, and not bare, as it is erroneously figured in that plate. In colour the bird much resembles an immature Spanish Imperial Eagle (*Aquila adalberti*) the plumage of the underparts being of a bright fulvous colour. This Eagle has quite got over that "silence in confinement" on which Dr. Bree so much relies as a specific character; for it kept up an incessant croaking during the whole time I was looking at it; indeed I think I never met with so noisy an Eagle. I am most decidedly of opinion that it